

opinion this bill already needs an A bill the way it stands right now. And the Bernard-Stevens amendment would obviously just further necessitate that, obviously the Bernard-Stevens amendment would raise that price tag considerably. But as amended right now, unless this body, on Select File, takes the Withem amendment off this bill, as it stands right now I guess it would...I would be of the opinion and would work with Senator Labeledz and Senator Withem, as the amendment's co-sponsor, to develop an A bill that would be proper. Obviously, if there are others things up on Select File that further increase the cost, it will certainly have an A bill anyway. But even as the way it is right now, I am of the opinion this bill needs an A bill. And I do not...I say that very hesitantly, because I don't want to get in the battle of whether or not this bill should be held up for stuff like that. But regardless of what bill it is, given the fact that there is some costs incurred to state government, regardless of how important the bill is, or how emotional the bill is, I'm of the opinion it needs an A bill, it should have one. I think the bill in its present form probably already needs one.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Rogers.

SENATOR ROGERS: Mr. President and members, Senator Bernard-Stevens, could I ask you a question?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, sir.

SENATOR ROGERS: Senator, has there been any inquiries from counties on what this might do to their budget in the State of Nebraska? Has there been a big concern with counties on this question that you brought up or not?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: The only thing we've done is checked with the...with the county organization, NACO, and they were supportive of the amendment the way it is now. They were not, I want to be clear, they were not making a position, one way or another, on this issue of parental notification. But they felt that certainly it would be something they would support, that we shift the payment of the funds to the state level. That part they supported, but that was not any indication anywhere of support or nonsupport of the bill.

SENATOR ROGERS: But that was NACO, that wasn't necessarily a...maybe an answer from counties, individually, Senator.